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William S Van Allen 04/18/2002 09:21:58 AM From DB/Inbox: William S Van Allen

Cable Text:

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TELEGRAM

April 17, 2002

TO: SECSTATE WASHDC - IMMEDIATE  
Action: INR  
From: AMEMBASSY LA PAZ (LA PAZ 1455 - IMMEDIATE)  
TAGS: PRES, PGOV, OIIP, OPRC, KPAO, KMDR, BL  
Captions: None  
Subject: Media Play - Turmoil in Venezuela  
Ref: None

1. On April 17 the La Paz centrist daily "La Razon" published a front page headline that read: "The coup against Hugo Chavez smells of the U.S." The full story was published on an inside page under the headline: "The U.S. is under suspicion about the Chavez coup; now it protects its officials." The subhead added: "The New York Times reports that in the last few months the coalition, that ousted the President of Venezuela for some hours, met with officials from the Bush administration. The State Department fears reprisals against Americans."

2. Another "La Razon" article was entitled: "The OAS recognizes the Chavez government."

3. Left-leaning "La Prensa" also carried a front-page headline: "The U.S. talked with the plotters, but denies having given them support." The information was published in full on an inside page, along with two other stories: "A military with bad luck wants asylum in Bolivia" and "The New York Times: Coups must not be applauded."

4. Conservative "El Diario" opened its edition with the headline: "Military opposed to Hugo Chavez ask Bolivia for asylum." The story inside, entitled "Government takes its time to define asylum for Venezuelans," quotes Bolivia's Foreign Minister Gustavo Fernandez as saying that Bolivia would analyze the requests and consider whether there is an atmosphere of political persecution in Venezuela that could put the petitioners' security at risk.  
Rocha

Additional Addressees:  
None

CC:  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO

Distribution:

TED9372  
ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	WHA-00	DS-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	ACE-00	SSO-00	SS-00

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 27 APR 2006, 200304421

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